

My dear Gray -

Tuesday Morning -

Your note of the 5th was handed to me by A. J. Vant, here, so that it did not find me at Princeton, as you supposed, & hence the two pages to our good Lomey have not reached him - as yet. As to "gallivanting" I scorn your words! Nevertheless, I have "entered a plea" on the subject of my recent neglect of botany, in the enclosed to Mrs Gray - a fitter judge than yourself, of such matters. Many thanks for your congratulations. Truly, master John's arrangement has made me a sort of public character - I presented myself, for the first time, in Wall St. Yesterday, & was almost surprised to find how extensively the news has been spread - However, the standing of Mr. Astor rendered such a publicity inevitable. I have safely received the copy of Gen. illust. for which you must permit the renewed expression of my hearty thanks - It is, in all respects, most grateful to my feelings - I shall talk to Lomey

about the notice of it, for J. L. J. as I am led to expect that he will visit N.Y. this week - I did mention the matter to him, at Princeton - Thanks for your letter to Lea - He sent me some copies of the Cat. in consequence of it, which I am now distributing - My mind has been so distracted this summer, & especially within the last month, that I know not how I shall resume my hermit life - I already feel my position one of solitude! Though I have only been 20 days away from Mr. Astor's family - I fear that I have destroyed in 2 or 3 months what it has cost me more years of stern & melancholy resolution to build up - a reliance on my own

undivided resources for companionship - I always
knew that I was not intended to live alone, but hoped
(vainly, I fear) that I had at last succeeded in doing
a perpetual violence to my nature. This winter
will have to be, either a very lonely Hullen one,
with me - or, should I allow myself to be drawn
(thru' Mr. A's family) into the vortex of Society once

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more, an unusually gay one - I suppose John
will make a visit here, every 4 or 5 weeks, & my
only way of seeing him, at all, will be to "seek
him in his haunts" - Meantime, I shall try to resume
my condition of repose - tho' my friends here, are specula-
ting with satisfaction upon the certainty of my new
connections, restoring me, as they say, to Society. However
that may be, I am, & shall be very affectionately yrs. H.